



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Kansas City District

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News Release

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Agencies team up to decrease drowning deaths on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes

SMITHVILLE, Mo. - Members of the media will get an up-close look Thursday, May 25, at efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri State Water Patrol aimed at decreasing the number of drowning deaths on Missouri lakes this Memorial Day weekend.

Park rangers from the Clay County Parks Department, the Corps and the Missouri State Water Patrol will meet members of the media at noon at Smithville Lake's Camp Branch Marina to discuss the importance of personal flotation devices, sober boating and the safe operation of personal watercraft. The agencies will also detail their planned enforcement campaign for the holiday weekend.

More than 125,000 boaters are expected to flock to Missouri lakes this Memorial Day weekend. Corps experts say the best way for everyone to enjoy this holiday season is to not drink and boat and to remember life jackets before heading out on the water.

Nationwide nearly 700 people lost their lives while boating last year. Nine out of 10 of those were not wearing a life jacket, and half of all the accidents involved alcohol.

The increasing number of personal watercraft and inexperienced operators are also becoming a concern for waterborne law enforcement. More than 1.3 million personal watercraft are estimated to be in operation in the U.S.

For more information, contact the Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Camp Branch Marina is located in Smithville Lake's Camp Branch arm. To get there, go north on Interstate 35 to the Highway 92 at the Kearney exit. Take Highway 92 about five miles west to E Highway. Follow E Highway north to Collins Road. Collins Road crosses the lake on a bridge. Camp Branch Marina is the first left after crossing the bridge.